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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/037,411	10/24/2001	Patrick M. Cox	41698.1034	7733

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Alex L. Yip  
Kaye Scholer LLP  
425 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

EXAMINER

HOOSAIN, ALLAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2645

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/037,411

Applicant(s)

COX ET AL.

Examiner

Allan Hoosain

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Amendment B, 7/10/03.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 57-60, 62-66, 68-70 and 72-76 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 57-60, 62-66, 68-70 and 72-76 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

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**FINAL DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 57-77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by **Hou et al.** (US 5,325,421).

As to Claims 57-59, with respect to Figures 3-5, **Hou** teaches a method for managing a call from a caller to an information assistance service, the method comprising:

receiving information concerning a first calling area associated with the call (Col. 2, lines 38-40);

eliciting from the caller an information assistance request (Col. 11, lines 14-24);

searching a database for results responsive to the information assistance request, the results including a destination telephone number (Col. 11, lines 40-46);

determining whether a connection from the first calling area to a second calling area indicated by the destination telephone number entails a service of a billing account (selected type) (Col. 9, lines 22-35 and Col. 3, line 65 through Col. 4, line 22);

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determining whether the caller is authorized to have the connection which entails the service of the billing account (selected type) made through the information assistance service based on a status of an account associated with the caller (Col. 11, lines 25-30); and

making the connection when it is determined that the caller is authorized to have the connection made which entails the service of the billing account (selected type) (Col. 4, lines 13-22 and Col. 9, lines 22-40).

As to Claims 60,66, **Hou** teaches the method of claim 57 wherein the information assistance service is provided by an operator (Col. 9, lines 18-55).

As to Claims 62-63,67, with respect to Figures 3-5, **Hou** teaches a method for managing a call from a caller to an information assistance service, the method comprising:

receiving information concerning a calling telephone number associated with the call (Col. 2, lines 38-40);

eliciting from the caller an information assistance request (Col. 11, lines 14-24);

in response to the information assistance request searching a database for a destination telephone number (Col. 11, lines 40-46);

determining whether a connection between a calling station from which the call originates to a called station associated with the destination telephone number entails services of a billing account (selected type) based on a comparison of at least a portion of the calling telephone number with at least a portion of the destination telephone number (Col. 9, lines 30-34, Col. 3, lines 24-57 and line 65 through Col. 4, line 22);

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determining whether the caller is authorized to have the connection which entails the service of the billing account (selected type) made through the information assistance service based on a status of an account associated with the caller (Col. 3, line 65 through Col. 4, line 4 and Col. 11, lines 25-30); and

connecting a calling station to the called station when it is determined that the caller is authorized to have the connection made which entails a service of a selected type (Col. 4, lines 13-22 and Col. 9, lines 22-38).

As to Claims 64-65, **Hou** teaches the method of claim 62 wherein the portion of the calling telephone number indicates a first calling area, 225, and the portion of the destination telephone number indicates a second calling area, 250, different from the first calling area (Figure 1 and Col. 2, lines 31-35).

As to Claims 68-70, 72-76, with respect to Figures 3-5, **Hou** teaches a method of providing an information assistance service to a customer, comprising:

receiving signals in setting up a call from the customer through an inbound channel (Col. 2, lines 38-40);

based on the received signals, identifying a calling telephone number associated with a calling station from which the customer calls (Col. 2, lines 38-40);

eliciting an information assistance request from the customer (Col. 11, lines 14-24);

in response to the information assistance request, searching a database for a destination telephone number (Col. 11, lines 40-46);

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determining whether a connection from a first calling area indicated by the calling telephone number to a second calling area indicated by the destination telephone number entails a service of a billing account (selected type), by comparing the first calling area with the second calling area (Col. 9, lines 30-34 and Col. 3, lines 24-57 and line 65 through Col. 4, line 22) ;

determining whether the customer is authorized to have the connection which entails the service of the billing account (selected type) made, based on at least a result of the comparison (Col. 3, line 65 through Col. 4, line 4 and Col. 11, lines 25-30);

allocating an outbound channel to establish a connection to the destination telephone number when it is determined that the customer is authorized to have the connection made which entails the service of the selected type (Col. 4, line 13-22 and Col. 9, lines 34-36);

dialing the destination telephone number over the outbound channel (Col. 9, lines 34-36);  
and

connecting the inbound channel to the outbound channel (Col. 9, lines 35-38).

### *Response to Arguments*

3. Applicant's arguments filed in the 7/10/03 Remarks have been fully considered but they are not persuasive because of the following:

(a) **Hou** does not teach nor suggest in any way the determining of a connection which “entails a service of a selected type”.

Examiner respectfully disagrees. This is because **Hou** teaches that calls are associated with particular billing accounts (selected service types). **Hou** in particular teaches that users designate

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that calls to particular destinations are to be billed to selected accounts (see Col. 3, line 43 through Col. 4, line 22).

(b) Examiner respectfully invites Applicants to contact Examiner to discuss possible amendments for overcoming the prior art of record.

*Conclusion*

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

**Bielby et al.** (US 5,488,652) teaches determining called destinations from calling telephone numbers.

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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6. Any response to this final action should be mailed to:

**Box AF**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

(703) 872-9314, (for formal communications; please mark "EXPEDITED  
PROCEDURE")

**Or:**

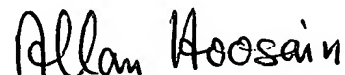
(703) 306-0377 (for customer service assistance)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121  
Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the  
examiner should be directed to **Allan Hoosain** whose telephone number is (703) 305-4012. The  
examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's  
supervisor, **Fan Tsang**, can be reached on (703) 305-4895.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding  
should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



**Allan Hoosain**  
**Primary Examiner**  
9/10/03